

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4402

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
2362-B Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
1016 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As your Subcommittee begins to draft the FY 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I would like to voice my opposition to the inclusion of language proposed in President Obama's FY 2014 budget request to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992 (CUPCA) and return management of the Central Utah Project to the Bureau of Reclamation. I also urge you to restore the project's construction funding which the President's proposed FY 2014 budget eliminates.

Congress enacted CUPCA due to the Bureau of Reclamation's inability to control costs. CUPCA transferred planning, construction and management of the project to the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, which operates under the oversight of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Since 1992, the District has maintained an exceptionally low overhead rate of three percent, which has saved the federal government millions of dollars in overhead costs. All of these savings have been used to further construct the project and are due entirely to the District's efficient management of the program. The project is now a year ahead of schedule.

The primary purpose of the Central Utah Project is to deliver water to over one million people in Salt Lake and Utah counties. The Project will also deliver water for the recovery of endangered species and provide clean renewable energy through hydroelectric power generation. The President's FY 2014 budget provides only \$3.5 million for the Central Utah Project, which is \$25.4 million less than the FY 2013 full-year continuing resolution. Of this amount, \$2.5 million will be used for oversight and \$1 million will be transferred to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission -- no funding is included for the District to continue construction. Without construction funding the project will stop at 72% complete.

I respectfully request that your subcommittee leave control of the Central Utah Project with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and to restore a minimum of \$16,047,029 to the CUPCA construction program, the amount provided in the FY 2013 continuing resolution.

Sincerely,



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress